

134 **ECHION** *Mythology* (1990).

birth to Agathyrus, Gelonus and Scythes.

Echion (*Ἐχίων*)

1. One of the five Spartoi, or men born from the dragon's teeth sown by CADMUS, who were still surviving at the foundation of Thebes. He married Agave. She gave birth to PENTHEUS.

2. One of the Argonauts, the twin brother of Eurytus (3).

3. For another Echion, see PORTH-EUS (2).

Echo (*Ἠχώ*) A Nymph of the trees and springs.

In one account Echo was loved by Pan but loved a Satyr instead, who shunned her; in revenge, Pan sent some shepherds mad, who tore her to pieces. In another account Echo loved Narcissus unrequitedly and pined away; when she died her voice alone remained – this repeated the last syllables of spoken words.

Eëtion (*Ἠετίων*) A king of Thebes in Mysia and the father of Andromache. He was killed by ACHILLES.

Achilles admired Eëtion's courage to such an extent that he did not strip him of his arms but buried them with his body, giving him lavish funeral rites. The Nymphs planted an elm tree on his grave.

Egeria A Roman Nymph who formed part of the cult of DIANA at Nemi. Egeria also had a cult at the Porta Capena. She was the adviser (and in some accounts wife or lover) of King NUMA POMPILIUS, prescribing the religious practices which he followed. When he died she wept so much that she became a spring.

Elatus (*Ἐλατος*)

1. The eldest son of ARCAS. When Arcas divided up his lands Elatus was given the area around Mount Cylene; he later added Phocis to this, assisting the natives against the Phleggyans; he then founded the town of Elatea.

2. A Thessalian counterpart of ELATUS (1). This Elatus, from Larissa, was sometimes linked with CAENEUS (see POLYPHEMUS (1)).

Electra (*Ἠλέκτρα*)

1. One of the daughters of Oceanus and Tethys, who married Thaumias and then gave birth to Iris and to the Harpies. Electra was one of Persephone's companions, and was present when she was carried off by Hades.

2. One of the PLEIADES. Zeus fathered her child Dardanus (Table 4), who left Samothrace and went to the Troad, where he founded the royal dynasty of Troy.

Electra had another son, IASION. Electra is also said to have had a third son, named Emathion, who ruled over Samothrace, but more frequently this third child of hers by Zeus is named as Harmonia (2). In the Italian version of Electra's legend, she was the wife of the Etruscan king Corythus (1), and Dardanus and Iasion were born in Italy.

Electra is also linked to the legend of the PALLADIUM. She was later transformed with her sisters into the constellation of the Pleiades.

3. Daughter of Agamemnon and Clytemnestra (Table 2). After Agamemnon was murdered by Aegisthus and Clytemnestra, Electra was treated as a slave; she was spared only on the intervention of her mother. In

some accounts Electra saved her brother, the young Orestes, by entrusting him to their old tutor, who took him away from Mycenae. To prevent her giving birth to a son who might avenge her father, Electra was either married to a peasant who lived far from the city, or, having been betrothed to Castor and then Polymestor, was imprisoned at Mycenae.

On Orestes' return, she recognized him at Agamemnon's tomb and played an active part in the assassination of Aegisthus and Clytemnestra. When the Erinyes pursued Orestes for this crime, she devoted herself to his welfare. In Euripides' *Orestes* she fought at her brother's side against the local populace, who wanted to condemn the murderers to death. Electra was the main character in Sophocles' *Aletes* (now lost): when Orestes and Pylades went to Tauris, rumours started at Mycenae that they had died, and that Electra's sister Iphigenia had killed Orestes. Aegisthus' son Aletes assumed the throne and Electra went to Delphi, where she met Iphigenia who had gone there with Orestes. Electra was about to blind her when she saw her brother. Electra and Orestes returned to Mycenae and killed Aletes. Electra married Pylades and went with him to Phocis; their children were Medon (3) and Strophius (2).

Electryon (*Ἠλεκτρώων*) One of the sons of Perseus and Andromeda, and the father of ALCMENE (Table 7). For his death see AMPHITRYON and PTERELAUS.

Elephenor (*Ἐλεφήνωρ*) Grandson

of ABAS (1) whom he succeeded on the Euboean throne. One day Elephenor saw his grandfather being ill-treated by a servant: he aimed a blow at the servant's head, but his club struck Abas and killed him. Elephenor then went into exile. As one of Helen's suitors he took part in the Trojan War, to which he led the Abantes. Since he could not set foot on Euboean soil he mustered the troops from a rock just off the shore. In the *Iliad* he was killed at Troy by Agenor, but in other traditions he survived the war and settled on Othronus, an island off Sicily, from which he was driven by a serpent. He then went to Epirus in the area of Abantia or Amantia.

Eleusis (*Ἐλευσίς*) The eponymous hero of Eleusis. According to certain accounts he was married to Cothone; their son was TRIPTOLEMUS. Demeter tried to make Triptolemus immortal by plunging him into a fire. On seeing this, Eleusis cried out, which enraged Demeter and she killed him. See also DEMOPHON (1).

Elis (*Ἠλῖς*) The son of Eurypylos and Poseidon. Elis succeeded his grandfather Endymion to the throne and then founded the city to which he gave his name.

Elissa See DIDO.

Elpenor (*Ἐλπήνωρ*) One of Odysseus' companions; he was changed into a pig by Circe, who later restored his human form. When Odysseus was about to leave Circe's island, Elpenor was asleep on the terrace of her palace; when his name was called he started up, half-asleep,